

# SAIOH news

**A**nother year has flown by and, as I sit here writing this, it seems that there is still so much that we, as the SAIOH Council, need to achieve in order to meet our objectives and fulfil our mandate. In a sense, this is true. However, we have made great leaps this past year and SAIOH is most certainly going from strength to strength.

## PAST SUCCESSES

Some of SAIOH's achievements this past year include:

- SAQA recognition in line with the NQF Act as the Certification Body for Occupational Hygienists in South Africa.
- The appointment of a Chief Administrative Officer to assist in streamlining the administrative functions within SAIOH.
- A number of successful SAIOH Branch workshops.
- Facilitating growth of the profession through a steady increase in membership.
- The hosting of a very successful conference which included two Professional Development Courses (PDCs).
- Forging closer ties with local organisations such as the Department of Labour, National Institute for Occupational Health, Department of Health, Mine Ventilation Society of South Africa and Department of Mineral Resources, through regular meetings hosted by SAIOH.
- Hosting the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) board meeting in South Africa.
- Serving on South African National Standards (SANS) committees and assisting with the drafting of new standards and codes of practice.
- Serving the broader interests of worker health through participation in the Workplace Health Without Borders (WHWB) initiative.

## THE YEAR AHEAD SANS 17020

Insofar as the way forward and member offering is concerned, the SAIOH Council is hard at work to ensure that momentum is not lost, and that continual improvement is maintained – 2014 holds much promise!

I stated at our annual conference in August that SAIOH will look to compile a set of guidance documents to assist our members who make up AIAs, in their SANS 17020 accreditation journey. These documents are close to completion and should be available in early November, which will allow time for implementation and submission to SANAS in order to meet the submission deadline of 1 February 2014. Further to this, SAIOH intends hosting webinars to guide members on how the documentation

should best be utilised. Much work and effort has gone into compiling this system and I encourage you to consider this as an aid for conforming to the requirements of the SANS 17020 standard.

## Mentorship

Other exciting news includes the implementation of a formal mentorship programme for our members. After many suggestions and requests to assist our members in honing their skills as occupational hygiene professionals, SAIOH has developed and is in the process of finalising a mentorship programme which will see a phased implementation during 2014. Further improvements to the assessment process in the form of personal learnership profiles are also due for phased implementation in 2014, after the culmination of a number of years of hard work.

## Website

Our newly revamped website is due for release shortly, and 2014 will see members being able to log their CPD points via this avenue. This will facilitate not only the entry of points but also the management and auditing of points claimed. The website will also facilitate new membership applications in an effort to streamline the process and reduce the administrative load on SAIOH staff.

## Personal involvement

Please become involved in SAIOH activities within your respective regions. Our profession poses many challenges and can be taxing at times. Remember to network with your fellow SAIOH members and "share the load".

## November

I will be growing (or at least attempting to grow) a moustache in November or "Movember" (see <http://za.movember.com/>) in support of men's health, and promise to let you have a photo.

## Season's compliments

I would like to conclude by thanking you on behalf of the SAIOH Council for your continued support during 2013. December is fast approaching – to those of you going on vacation, travel safely, rest and enjoy. If you're staying home, make use of the holiday mood and relax, spend time with your loved ones and rejuvenate so that you have renewed energy to take on 2014.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2014!

*Report by PJ (Jakes) Jacobs, SAIOH President,  
e-mail: Peter.Jacobs2@riotinto.com*

